Superfast train between Visakhapatnam and Mumbai

261. DR. Y. LAKHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed to introduce a new superfast train between Visakhapatnam-Mumbai and Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneshwar Inter-city Express; and

(b) if so, by when the same would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in train accidents

262. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the report of the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety for 1998-99, the number of train accidents has been going up since 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to prevent the rising incidence of rail accidents; and

(d) what further steps are contemplated to improve safety measures in train journeys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of consequential train accidents occurred in 1996-97 was 381 which increased to 396 and 397 in 1997-98 and 1998-1999 respectively.

The number of consequential train accident in 1997-98, as compared to 1996-97, has increased primarily due to failure of Railway Staff.